

49.

FIREARM ACCESS DOCUMENTATION IN HIGH RISK CLINICAL SITUATIONS: MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

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Purpose: The American Academy of Pediatrics, among other groups, strongly encourages screening for firearm access in pediatric patients, as there is significant morbidity and mortality related to having access to firearms, particularly among youth at risk for suicide. The current study was designed to determine whether health care providers (HCPs) miss opportunities to detect youth access to firearms in particularly high risk situations such as the presence of depression or violence risk.

Methods: Adolescents ages 12–17 scheduled for a routine physical exam in an urban, adolescent medicine clinic between Oct 2010–December 2011 were eligible. Assent from adolescents and consent from parents (both by phone) was obtained to participate in a study assessing violence risk. As part of usual care, youth had the opportunity to answer a standardized health assessment, including whether there were guns in their home. Chart review was completed one month after the appointment. Data collected included youth self-report of violence risk, depression (PHQ-9) and access to firearms in the home and provider documentation of violence risk, mental health diagnosis and the presence of firearms in the home. Rates of each were calculated. Bivariate analysis determined whether there were associations between provider documentation of mental health issues or violence risk and documentation of firearms in the home.

Results: 549/784 (70%) of eligible youth consented), and 85% of those ($n = 466$) actually completed their appointment. Mean age was 14.5 (sd 1.6); 65% female, 45 % Hispanic, 38% Black, 17% White. 300/466 (64%) completed the health screening questionnaire. Providers documented a mental health diagnosis in 22% of all patients, including 14% with Depression, 4% with ADHD, and 4% all others. Providers only documented either the presence or absence of a firearm in just 15.9% of these patients, with 2% documentation of the presence of a firearm. Youth who were diagnosed with a mental health issue reported having firearm access 13.8% of the time- only 20% of the time did providers recognize this. For the 14.6% of youth who were positive for moderate-severe depression on the PHQ-9 -in only 8.1% was there documentation of access to firearms. Similarly, 14.6% were positive for future violence risk, and in only 17% was there documentation by providers of firearm access. No demographic characteristics, including age, race/ethnicity, gender or SES were associated with whether a provider documented the presence of a firearm in the home for these high risk youth.

Conclusions: Despite the prevalence of mental health diagnosis and violence risk in this adolescent population, providers are largely not documenting youth access to firearms. Missed opportunities to counsel parents and youth about the risk of firearms in high risk situations can lead to potentially devastating consequences. Ways to document access to firearms needs to be improved.

Sources of Support: Colorado Injury Control Research Center, Children's Hospital Colorado Research Institute, Deans Academic Enrichment Fund.

50.

2011 NORTH CAROLINA YRBS: ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, VIOLENCE, AND BULLYINGRobert W. Turner, PhD¹, Asheley Cockrell Skinner, PhD², Eliana Perrin, MD, MPH², Jake Lohr, MD², Tamara Coyne-Beasley, MD, MPH, FSAHM².¹University of Maryland; ²University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

Purpose: Athletic participation may prevent youth from engaging in risky behavior including violence. We sought to determine the association of athletic participation with participation in violence-related activities.

Methods: We used data from the 2011 North Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This survey is administered to high school students and provides state-representative data on a variety of behaviors. We used two questions related to sports, which asked if the student played a school-sponsored sport that was team-based (e.g., football) or individual-based (e.g., track). We then examined reports of fighting, carrying weapons, and bullying. We used adjusted Wald tests to examine differences in violence by the type of sport played, which adjust for the complex survey design of the NC YRBS.

Results: Half of the 1820 surveyed students ages 14–18 years reported participation in a school-sponsored sport: 25% team sports, 9% individual sports, and 17% both types. Girls who played sports were less likely to have been in a physical fight in the last year (14% vs. 22%, $p < 0.05$); there were no differences for boys or by type of sport. Girls playing sports were also less likely to have carried a weapon to school in the past 30 days (6% vs. 11%, $p < 0.05$); however, there were no differences for boys or type of sport. There was a non-significant trend towards boys playing sports being less likely to report having been bullied (20% vs. 25%, $p = 0.17$). Yet, boys playing only individual sports were more likely to report having been bullied than those playing team sports (29% vs. 18%, $p < 0.01$) with a similar trend for girls (41% vs. 32%, $p = 0.14$).

Conclusions: Our results suggest that childhood sport participation may have important relationships with violence-related activity. While girls were less likely to fight or carry a weapon when involved in sports, the same protective effect was not seen for boys. Boys who played team sports were less likely to report being bullied than boys who played individual sports. It is not known if boys who play team sports are less likely to be the perpetrators of bullying. Future research should examine why sports may be protective for girls' but not boys and if interventions involving pediatricians or schools can influence these relationships.

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51.

A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTS OF THE FAMILIAS EN ACCIÓN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ON ADOLESCENT VIOLENCE, SUBSTANCE USE, AND UNSAFE DRIVING

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Purpose: The goal of the Texas Healthy Adolescent Initiative is to reduce high risk attitudes and behaviors through a focus on Positive Youth Development. Through the use of Community Based Participatory Action Research methods (CBPR), the members of one Latino community decided to focus on promoting academic achievement as part of the state initiative. Eighteen youth, fourteen parents, and five other community members subsequently determined the content, developed, and implemented the fourteen sessions of the Familias en Acción Scholarship Program. The program focuses on increasing student academic achievement motivation, increasing parental educational support, and addressing perceived potential barriers to accomplish these goals. The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of participation in the Familias en Acción Scholarship Program on attitudes and behaviors in regard to adolescent violence, substance use, and unsafe driving among students in one predominantly Latino school district.

Methods: In February, 1,678 students were prospectively randomized in equal proportions to participate in the Familias en Acción Scholarship Program or to be part of a no intervention control group. Students and parents participated in the program in April and June. In August, 186 randomly selected students came to a local public library to complete a confidential self-administered questionnaire. Demographic data; attitudes toward violence, substance use, and unsafe driving; and past 30 day violence, substance use, and unsafe driving were self-reported by participants. Student's t-tests were used to compare mean scale scores for the three attitude and three behavior outcomes.

Results: Of the 186 participants of the survey, 54% were in the intervention group, 91% were Latino, 53% were female, 35% were in middle school, 46% in high school and 19% in college. Students who participated in the Scholarship Program had a more negative attitude toward the use of violence ($p=.01$) and substance use ($p=.01$) as compared to students in the control group. Students in both arms had equally negative attitudes toward unsafe driving ($p=.37$). Students in the intervention group trended toward lower levels of high risk behaviors, however statistically significant differences were not detected for violence ($p=.10$), substance use ($p=.10$), or unsafe driving ($p=.48$).

Conclusions: The findings suggest that CBPR can be used effectively with Latino communities to reduce adolescent high risk attitudes and possibly ultimately behaviors. In this study, participating in a program promoting academic achievement was shown to be associated with a more negative attitude toward the use of violence and substance use. Community members subsequently revised the Familias en Acción Scholarship Program based on formative evaluation from the first year. Outcome evaluation data from the second year of the program has been recently collected.

Sources of Support: The Texas Department of State Health Services.

52.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CYBERBULLYING EXPERIENCES AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS IN FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Purpose: Cyberbullying is increasing in prevalence and is a known risk factor for depression during adolescence. Little research has

investigated whether the association between cyberbullying and depression is also present during young adulthood, a time of increasing emotional maturity and independence which may lead to greater resilience regarding aggressive online behavior. Due to these developmental differences, we hypothesized that cyberbullying would not be associated with depression in this population. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between cyberbullying and depression among college students, with a specific focus on college females due to the higher prevalence of cyberbullying among adolescent females.

Methods: In this cross-sectional survey, female college students aged 18-25 years were recruited from four universities. Participants completed online surveys assessing history of victimization from and participation in various types of cyberbullying including hacking, text messaging, sexting, and hate speech; in addition, participants completed the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) to assess for current depressive symptoms. Logistic regression and t-tests were used to test the association between involvement in cyberbullying and PHQ-9 score.

Results: A total of 265 female participants completed the online survey. Participants were 84.9% Caucasian, 96.6% heterosexual, and had a mean age of 20.2 years ($SD=1.7$ years). Overall, 27% of participants reported experiences with cyberbullying in college, with 3.0% being cyberbullies, 17.0% being cybervictims, and 7.2% being both cyberbullies and cybervictims, and 17.4% of all participants met criteria for depression on the PHQ-9. The most commonly reported bullying behaviors were: hacking into an online account (13.6%), sending or receiving of unwanted sexual advances through Internet or text message (13.6%), sending or receiving of embarrassing or threatening text messages (10.6%), and posting degrading comments or hate speech (7.2%). After adjusting for race and sexual orientation, participants with any involvement in cyberbullying were more likely to meet criteria for depression ($OR=2.9$, 95% CI: 1.5–5.8). Involvement with cyberbullying was also associated with higher mean PHQ-9 score (6.8 vs. 4.8, $p=0.002$).

Conclusions: We found that college females who experienced cyberbullying were more likely to be depressed in young adulthood. Due to the cross-sectional study design, it is unclear whether responses represent a delayed effect of past cyberbullying or sequelae of current cyberbullying. Further research should examine the longitudinal effects of cyberbullying in order to determine the need for cyberbullying prevention efforts in young adults and inform the development of interventions to decrease the risk for depression among young adults who are involved with cyberbullying.

Sources of Support: University of Wisconsin Department of Pediatrics.

53.

PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT IN DETAINED ADOLESCENT MALES AS PREDICTORS OF AGGRESSIVE AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIORS

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Purpose: Adolescent males are more likely to commit crimes and be the victims of crimes. Additionally, antisocial youth show higher rates of aggression, and are at higher risk for multiple issues, such as school dropout, mental illness, and substance abuse. Unfortunately due to similar externalizing behaviors, antisocial youth are viewed as a homogenous group, and umbrella treatments are potentially unsuccessful. Therefore, research has endeavored to